

B. Claims

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a cleaning blade, the process comprising the steps of:

(1) drying a blade formed of a urethane resin so that the urethane resin has a water content of 1% by weight or less;

(2) after the drying, impregnating with an isocyanate compound at least a [[part]] contact portion of the ~~surface portion of a blade formed of a urethane resin, the urethane resin having a water content of 1% by weight or less, which said contact portion is to come into contact with a toner holding member;~~

[[(2)]] (3) after the impregnation, blowing warm air or hot air on the blade surface to remove the isocyanate compound remaining on the blade surface, the warm air or hot air having a temperature not lower than the melting point of the isocyanate compound; and

[[(3)]] (4) allowing the urethane resin that forms the blade to react with the isocyanate compound with which the blade stands impregnated, to form a cured layer; wherein, ~~in the step of impregnating the blade with an isocyanate compound.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cleaning blade according to claim 1, which further comprises, between the steps (2) ~~and (3)~~ and (4), the

step of further removing with a solvent the isocyanate compound remaining on the blade surface.

3. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the step [(1)] (2) is carried out by immersing the blade in an isocyanate compound bath.

4-10. (Cancelled)